Lebanon; Beyond Culture a Form of Gender Based Violence

Forced, Early, Child Marriage of Syrian Refugee Populations in Lebanon

Introduction

"One of the largest exodus in history", 70% of Syrian refugees do not live in formal camps (IRC, 2014)

Women constitute the majority of refugees and the internally displaced; 45% refugees are women and children

Hostility of the host community Lebanon has caused tensions between Syrians and the Lebanese

Resolution 1325, U.N formally acknowledges that Women are disproportionately affected by armed conflict and are critical agents of conflict prevention and resolution (IRC, 2014)

Methods

- Literature Review- Reviewing Research by Partner Institutions
  - Ex. Women's Refugee Commission and International Rescue Committee

- Supplementing Project with Independent Research
  - Focusing on reports and projects from Arab States such as, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and Turkey

Analyzing Documents Through a Feminist Theoretical Lens

- Why does GBV occur?
  - Men fulfill a lack of masculine identity through forms of violence

Findings

The three main areas causing FEC marriage occur throughout geographic, economic and social changes caused by the prevalence of conflict.

Geographic Factors

- Change in Environment, Lebanon considered as a more liberal and open society, mixing of boys and girls may cause premarital relations;

Economic Factors

- Lack of basic necessities ex. Famine Brides (UNFPA, 2012) devaluation of women and girls causes them to be seen as an economic burden, first to be financially cut off

Social Factors

- Protecting "honor"; virginity before marriage and faithfulness after is tied to familial honor, sexual assault in camps may destroy this honor

Correlation between years of educational attainment and age of marriage - girls with a secondary education or higher were twice as less likely to get married

Future Research

Development and Contextualization of a household survey to be done in Bekaa Valley, overseen by the WRC

Devaluation of girls in society causes them to face FEC marriage and at a much higher and violent rate

Larger study to be completed in Syria and Ethiopia

An overarching consensus for solutions to encourage and promote the value of girls, though economic reasons involving all members of society.

Conclusion

- Other Solutions....

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References: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1hTIpse28yP9rC3wZ7CyCfK9UWD-vrนy3XWMAIUB6/edit?usp=sharing

Gender Based Violence

- Refugees seen as strangers taking up resources, increases violence (IRC, 2014)

- Violence occurring in an out of "homes" (camps); sexual assault, domestic abuse.

- Majority of GBV cases go unreported; no adequate women spaces, women seek prayer as the only outlet, overtime it normalizes abuse

FEC (Forced, Early, Child) Marriage

- 1979 Convention on the Elimination of all forms of discrimination- minimum age for marriage is 18

- Early Marriage violates basic human rights since by legal definition a child can not give consent